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ANNIVERSARY MEETING, UNIVERSITY HALL,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 28, 1909, AT
EIGHT P. M.

THE PRESIDENT: This meeting has been set aside as an anniversary gathering at which we are to hear something of our origin, and receive also appreciations and congratulations. At a birthday party we do not look for criticism—nor is it a time for too serious reflection.

Most of us gladly forget our birthdays, but in the case of an organization like this which is so rapidly increasing in numbers, in influence, in public respect, every added year brings with it pride, and we can well take one session to hear something of our history, and if necessary to congratulate ourselves. In view of the length of the program, I shall not take any time in introductions, but in presenting the first speaker I should like to pay my own tribute of appreciation and regard for the work which he did for this Association. I happened to be one of the twenty-one who gathered at Saratoga when the organization of this Association was first discussed. Of those twenty-one, fourteen are now living. I think there are not more than three in this room who were present at that time.

Dr. Ely will now give an account of the history of the American Economic Association. I take great pleasure in introducing Professor Richard T. Ely, of the University of Wisconsin.